

BY-LAWS of the NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY at CLEARWATER FUNDAMENTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

- **Section 1**—This chapter shall be known as the National Junior Honor Society at Clearwater Fundamental Middle School.
- **Section 2** – The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, promote worthy leadership and citizenship, and encourage the development of character in Clearwater Fundamental Middle School students.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

- **Section 1** – Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and honorary. Honorary members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.
- **Section 2** – Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character.
- **Section 3** – Eligibility
 - A. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be in eighth grade.
 - B. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have attended Clearwater Fundamental Middle School for one semester.
 - C. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 (out of 4.0). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum level of academic achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
 - D. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates will be considered based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

- **Section 1**—**The selection of members for this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council, consisting of the members of the Intervention Appeals Committee of Clearwater Fundamental Middle School.** The chapter adviser shall be a nonvoting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council.
- **Section 2** – Before selection, the following shall occur:
 - A. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
 - B. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form, an essay, an Acknowledgement of Minimum Requirements for NJHS membership, and 20 hours of volunteer work and reflection.
 - C. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates based on the information above to determine membership.
- **Section 3** – The selection of new active members shall be held once a year at the beginning of the school year.
- **Section 4** – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.
- **Section 5** – **Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and all membership obligations.**
- **Section 6**—An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will, upon request, be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership, signed by the principal or chapter adviser.
- **Section 7**—An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. Thereafter, this member must maintain the chapter's requirements to retain his or her membership.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

- **Section 1**—Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship, or service established as admission criteria will be dismissed from the National Junior Honor Society at

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Clearwater Fundamental Middle School. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

- **Section 2** – If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard, the student will be dismissed.
- **Section 3** – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership (Acknowledgement of Minimum Requirements for NJHS Membership), the student will be dismissed.
- **Section 4** – Violation of the law or school regulations will result in dismissal of a member. These violations include but are not limited to stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.
- **Section 5** – Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will be documented through detentions.
- **Section 6** – In all cases of dismissal:
 - A. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification. The student will sign (3) copies of the letter. One is to remain with the adviser. One is to remain with the student/parent. One will be returned to the adviser with a parent's signature the next day.
 - B. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
 - C. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the IAC.
 - D. When a student is dismissed or resigns, they are no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for National Junior Honor Society membership.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

- **Section 1** - The chapter's officers shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, and parliamentarian.
- **Section 2** – Student officers shall be elected at the first meeting of each school year. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.
- **Section 3** – A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer in this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the most votes. The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter:
- **Section 4**—It shall be the president's duty to prepare the agenda for and preside at the meetings for this chapter.
- **Section 5**—The vice president shall preside in the president's absence and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.
- **Section 6** – The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.
- **Section 7**—The treasurer shall keep a record of chapter expenses, income, and all other financial transactions and communicate this information to the members at each meeting.
- **Section 8** – The historian shall record club activities and provide the school faculty with a historical album of NJHS accomplishments for the year.
- **Section 9**—The parliamentarian shall assist the President by providing structure to the meetings and ensuring all meeting procedures are followed. The parliamentarian shall be responsible for attendance records and provide this information to the President and adviser, as necessary.
- **Section 10**—If an office vacancy occurs during the school year, a new officer shall be elected at the next general meeting.
- **Section 11** – An officer shall be relieved of their duty if their service to the Executive Committee is deemed substandard by the adviser or a majority of the officers. (Note: If additional or alternative officers or duties exist, their positions and office responsibilities should be detailed in this bylaws article. Also, consider adding components that describe when officers could be relieved of their duties (suspensions, etc.) in cases not involving dismissal from the chapter. Additional provisions that speak to filling vacancies should they occur during the year (for whatever reason) are also advised. Consult with the school's student council adviser for local precedents. See also the national handbook's outline for chapter bylaws incorporating these topics.

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ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Section 1** – The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.
- **Section 2** – The executive committee shall oversee the meetings and the chapter's business. Still, any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

- **Section 1** – Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly.
- **Section 2** - All chapter members must attend all regularly scheduled meetings. Upon a second unexcused absence, a member will be dismissed from NJHS.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

- **Section 1** – The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for the year.
- **Section 2** – All members shall regularly participate in these projects.
- **Section 3** – These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; support the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well-planned, organized, and executed.
- **Section 4**—Each member shall be responsible for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her talents and interests and is approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.
- **Section 5** – The chapter shall positively publicize its projects.

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

- **Section 1** – Each member of this chapter who is in good standing concerning the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.
- **Section 2** – Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

ARTICLE X: DUES

- **Section 1** – Annual dues for this chapter shall be no more than \$20.00.
- **Section 2** - Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer within 30 days of induction.

ARTICLE XI: POWERS

- **Section 1** - The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.
- **Section 2** – The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.
- **Section 3**—**These bylaws are designed to amplify the provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all its activities.**

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

- **Section 1**—These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the principal's approval.
- **Section 2**—The bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the National Honor Society's constitution. Additional articles can be added as needed.

Approved May 10, 2016

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